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Date of Report: 17 Apr 46

SUBJECT: Indoctrination School, NKVD Sponsored

Hinter-Bruehl
near Moedling

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a. Subject School, called the Anti-Fascist School, is located at Hinter-Bruehl in Moedling near Vienna and is operated by the Russian Army for the purpose of training personnel in disseminating communistic propaganda, students subsequently acting as Politruks, observing and reporting general political situations to Russian Intelligence Agencies. Persons showing higher capability and trustworthiness are given confidential and secret missions, including surveillance assignments with the NKVD.

b. There is apparently no set rule in the selection of students other than the requisite of showing promise in carrying out the given assignments. Some are chosen on the basis of their communistic tendencies while others are literally rescued from starvation, supplied their necessities and given no alternative but to cooperate. Pressure from the NKVD is also used to keep students and graduates in the proper line of endeavor. Once a person is taken into the school as a student he remains in the school under the guard of two platoons of Russian infantry and is allowed to leave only on rare exceptions, in which cases the circumstances must be declared essential by the school authorities and the student accompanied by a teacher or a Russian soldier for the duration of his absence from the school. The student body is composed of men and women of all ages above 17 years, although according to this informant, the first course, held in July 1945, was attended by some 250 men, 90% of which were former wehrmacht officers. Subsequent courses, from September to about the middle of November, shortly before Christmas to the end of February, and the last having begun in the first week of March, were given to 150 to 180 persons of various types.

c. The curriculum calls for four hours of work in the morning and four in the afternoon. The first hour in each set of four is devoted to lecture, the second to discussions, the third to a study-period and the fourth to tests, usually verbal. The greatest part of the instruction centers around Russian political history with supplementary readings in Marx and Engel's materialism and other pertinent philosophies. The essence of detrimental propaganda is directed against capitalism, advocating a "must and will go" policy. Upon graduation, students are assigned to districts and put into service by the local Russian Military Government to which they are responsible.

d. Students at the Anti-Fascist School receive various benefits including clothing, most of which is plundered goods. Several received dark grey sport jackets, described as having open pockets with flaps. Sewn to the lining of the coat is a rectangular label with a gold eagle badge, head turned to the left, in the upper left hand corner, and the name M & J Mandl, Wien I, Stefansplatz. A daily ration of 25 cigarettes, alternating German and Russian brands every other day is given out, the Russian type being the Russke-Papiruski with the long mouth-stem. When cigarettes are not available, Russian tobacco for rolling cigarettes is supplemented. Clothing material is sometimes included in the ration of benefits. Informant described some of the material as being similar to OD blankets, other as being striped blue and white and still others as striped gray and white.

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RIMD SUB-SECTION

Date of Report: 17 Apr 46
(Page 2)

SUBJECT: Indoctrination School, NKVD Sponsored (continued)

2. The School faculty is diverse, but all having the status of an employee or member of the Red Army, Austrians and Germans alike. The exact strength of the faculty was not available but the following descriptions of some of the members of the staff will serve as a cross-section:

a. ✓ HIRSCH, fnu, faculty head, civilian, half-Jew, lived in France during the war, teaches history. Is also one of the heads of the Propaganda Abteilung of the KPO, Zentral Komitee, Wien 9, Wassegasse 10.

b. ✓ MATCIAS, Hans, school teacher, Locksmith by trade, was a political prisoner at Dachau.

c. RUCHS, Wilhelm, teacher, deserter of the German Army, went to Moscow and attended the Anti-Fascist School there, was later on the Russo-German front and active in a propaganda abteilung. Presently residing in Maria Enzersdorf near Vienna.

d. ✓ ETZ, Wilhelm, similar instructor, fought with the Red Army in the Spanish Revolution.

e. ✓ EILDERMANN, fnu, German newspaperman, former teacher at the Anti-Fascist School in Moscow, teaches Marx and Engel's Actuale und Politische Tagesfragen, presently living in Vienna with his family.

f. WEBER, fnu, University professor from Moscow, teaches Russian history.

g. RYBAKOW, fnu, Major of the Russian Guard, Chief of the Anti-Fascist School, is an exceptionally heavy drinker, entirely without inhibitions with women, strikingly Mongol in type.

h. ✓ BERESCHOFISKY, fnu, Lt. in the Red Army, active in a propaganda abteilung quartered in the former Panzer Kaserne in Baden near Vienna. BERESCHOFISKY has what informant source describes as a Russian propaganda car, having a green painted box on the back and equipped with a receiver-transmitter which uses morse code in maintaining constant contact with the abteilung in Baden while on tours throughout Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland. The car is manned by a crew of four - BERESCHOFISKY, a Russian Staff Sergeant and two Austrian students.

i. ✓ HALWAX, Wilhelm, assistant instructor, travelled with BERESCHOFISKY in the propaganda car.

3. Informant states that all members of the faculty are armed with a Belgian army pistol, 38 cal., carrying 16 rounds. (Informant is probably referring to the Belgian Browning Automatic pistol, 38 cal., 13 rounds).

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